

## Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for April 2014

1340 State Route 9 Lake George, NY 12845 ☼ Phone: 518-761-6342 Fax: 518-761-7683

Denise A. Di Resta, Director/CVSO at [direstad@warrencountyny.gov](mailto:direstad@warrencountyny.gov) ~ web-site: <http://warrencountyny.gov/veterans>



## April Fool's

**VA to Cover Full Semester for VRAP Students:** This week, VA announced that they have taken steps to extend payments for those participants using the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP). VRAP was passed as a part of the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act of 2011 and was specifically designed to cover veterans who are not eligible to receive GI Bill educational benefits. Current enrollees will now receive payments to cover them from April 1, 2014 through the conclusion of their enrollment semester or term or through June 30, 2014, whichever is earlier. For more information on the VRAP program, please go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/03/05/covering-veterans-retraining-assistance-program-participants-through-june>

**Take the Military Family Survey:** Blue Star Families has asked VFW to help distribute their 2014 Military Family Lifestyle Survey to active-duty, Guard, Reserve and veteran families. The survey is now available online at <http://tiny.cc/2014VFW>. The data collected provides real-time feedback from military families on issues ranging from operations tempo to pay and benefits, stress, caregiving and employment.

**Care and Benefits for Veterans Strengthened by \$164 Billion VA Budget:** Continuing the transformation of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) into a 21<sup>st</sup> century organization, the President has proposed a \$163.9 billion budget, a 6.5 percent increase over Fiscal Year 2014, that will support VA's goals to expand access to health care and other benefits, eliminate the disability claims backlog, and end homelessness among Veterans. The budget includes \$68.4 billion in discretionary spending, largely for healthcare, and \$95.6 billion for mandatory programs – mostly disability compensation and pensions for Veterans. The entire presser can be found at the following link: <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2528>

**VetTix:** VetTix charges no fees and its goal is to boost morale amongst Veterans. Please review the info on the following link or to start the sign up process: <http://www.vettix.org/ref/167415>  
*I've used this site a couple of times and I love it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

**NEW!!! Available Donated Supplies and Equipment:** I have started a new link on my webpage. If you have durable medical equipment that you would like to donate to a Veteran/surviving spouse call us and we will post your item(s).

**Veterans Crisis Line Info:** If a veteran or service member you know is showing [signs of crisis](#), such as hopelessness, anxiety or withdrawal, call on the caring professionals at the VA's [Veterans Crisis Line](#) who are ready to listen and provide support. The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that veterans, service members and their families can access anytime. Call **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or **text to 838255** for free, confidential support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. You can start the conversation today. Visit [VeteransCrisisline.net/SpreadtheWord](http://VeteransCrisisline.net/SpreadtheWord) to download free Veterans Crisis Line materials so you can tell others how to do it, too.